Discontinuation of Procurement of Food grains

810. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to discontinue the present system of procurement of foodgrains;

(b) whether Government have assessed its impact on the States like Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps to protect interests of the farmers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No conceret proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government. However, alternative methods of providing income support to the farmers are being examined so that the farmers get the MSP for their crops.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Procurement Facility at MSP

811. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FCI extened 100% procurement facilities at MSP to Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in procurement of foodgrains by FCI; and

(c) the reasons for not extending this facility to the other States as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In Punjab and Haryana, most of the procurement is done by the State Governments and their agencies.